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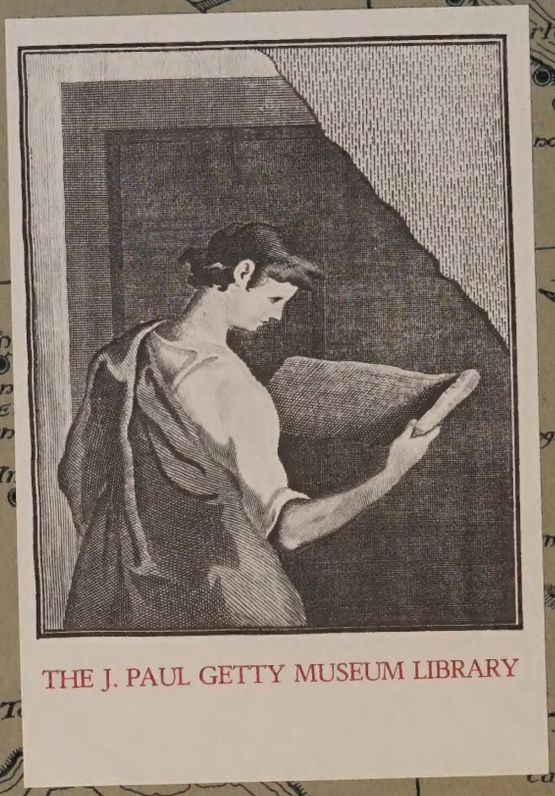

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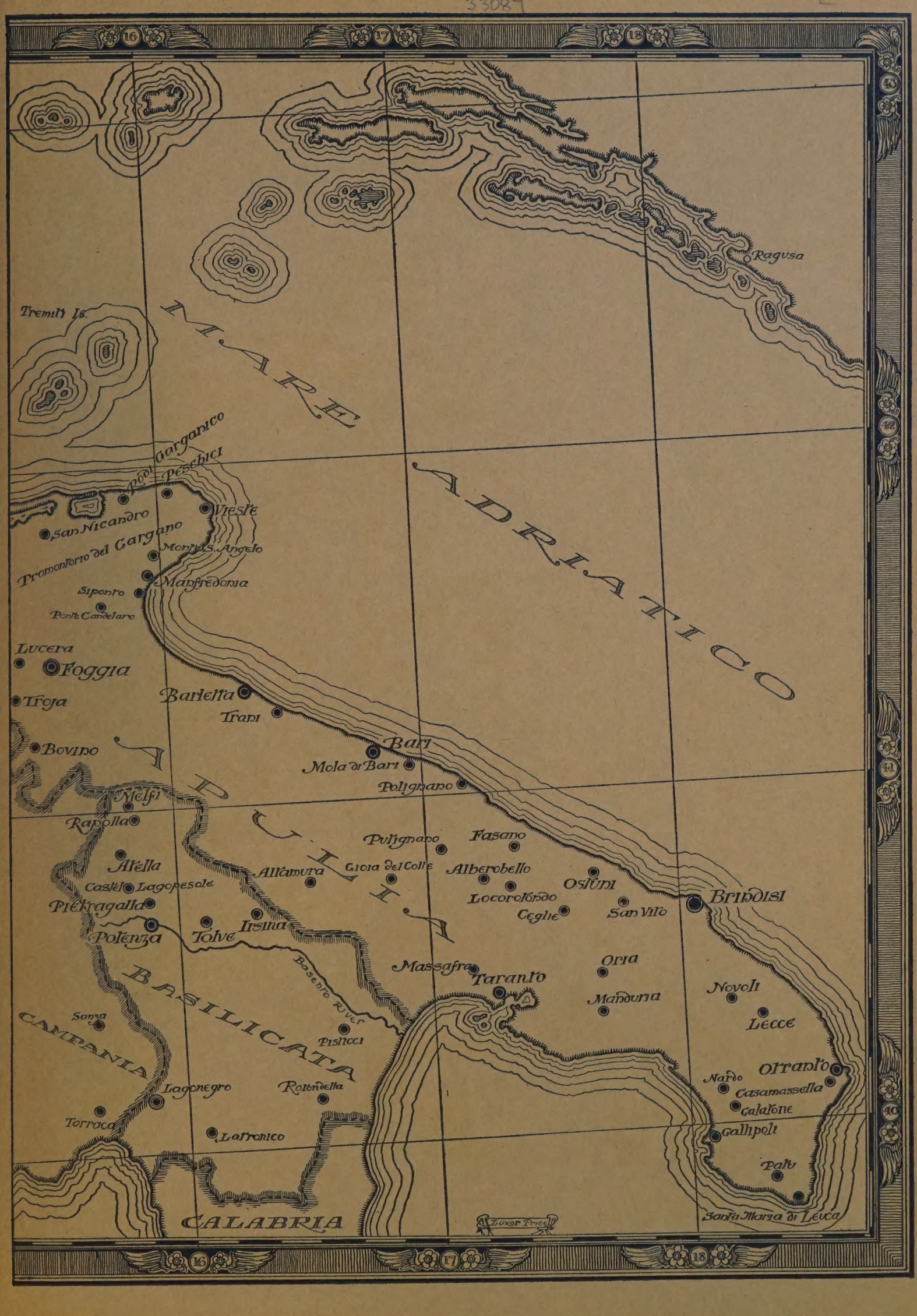
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Ponte Candelaro
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Rapolla
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Fasano
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Altamura
Gioia del Colle
Alberobello
Ostuni
Locorotondo
Brindisi
Ceglie
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Pietragalla
Potenza
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Irsina
Massafra
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Lecce
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BASILICATA
CAMPANIA
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Pisticci
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Nardo
Casamassella
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Latronico
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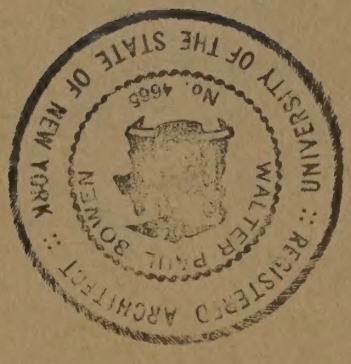
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WALTER PAUL BOWEN

CAPRÁROLA

FARMHOVSES·AND·SMALL PROVINCIAL BVILDINGS IN SOVTHERN ITALY

PHOTOGRAPHS BY
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TEXT BY
KATHARINE HOOKER
AND
MYRON HVNT

ARCHITECTVRAL BOOK PVBLISHING CO·INC·
PAVL WENZEL AND MAVRICE KRAKOW·
31 EAST 12TH STREET NEW YORK

NH
32
H784
F23
1925

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Architectural Book Publishing Co., Inc.
New York

Printed in the United States of America

PUBLISHED UNDER THE AUSPICES
OF THE ALLIED ARCHITECTS ASSOCIATION
OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

INTRODUCTION

IT WAS perhaps fifteen years ago that Miss Hooker gave the writer a set of contact prints from a hundred or more of the photographs which formed the beginnings of her collection. Today, that collection has quadrupled. It is the result of many trips, each covering many months spent almost entirely in out-of-the-way Italian places. In recent years, others have taken to combing the byways of Italy and publishing the results. There is not in our office a published collection of photographs of minor Italian work which has given more inspiration than the unpublished set from which these selections have been made.

Notwithstanding the amount of Italian material published within the last decade, it is a pleasure to find, sprinkled all through Miss Hooker's dozen albums, bits which no one else seems to have found, or if previously found, have seldom been recorded by so skillful a photographer.

The spirit of much of the work here published, when taken from central and northern Italy, is universally known. Much of the material from the Apulian district is, however, unique, as far as previous publication is concerned. Historical references elsewhere made by Miss Hooker's mother, Mrs. Katharine Hooker, the author of "Wayfarers in Italy" and "Byways in Southern Tuscany", help to tell a part of the story of the architecture in this little-known Apulia. The bee-hive towns are so obviously the building of stone tents that it doesn't need her reference to an influx from Northern Africa to make one understand their origin. We are all familiar with the continental relics of the more luxurious North African migrants to Spain and Sicily. Here are relics of a simpler people, who seem to have brought with them none of the architectural momentum of any of the dead eastern empires, but only that of their own tents.

No architect can really understand or enjoy to the full the local color of an old district, isolated by lack of roads or by the racial persistence of groups, except in the proportion that he harks back to those waves of migration which everywhere in the world have left their imprint upon building, even after all apparent trace of the blood that brought the special color seems to have vanished.

From the inspiration furnished by such books as this is developing the minor architecture of the United States, and particularly that of the Southwest. It is from the

minor buildings in any historic district that a student gets his understanding of the innate character of its buildings and a true appreciation of its more important works of later periods of wealth and grandeur.

The writer has joined a great pleasure to a feeling of duty in encouraging Miss Hooker to place some of her material before students of Italian architecture, men who themselves are day by day working out in this country an architectural solution which shall fit our method of living, our climatic conditions, and those necessities and opportunities that go with the results of modern invention.

MYRON HUNT, *Vice President,*
Allied Architects Association of Los Angeles.

January 30, 1925.

PREFACE

THE northern and central parts of Italy are so well covered by guide books that to dwell upon them is unnecessary, but a journey to the south-eastern portion is not so easy or so often undertaken, though it affords the traveler an interesting and surprising field in which to trace the racial records that survive in its architecture.

The provinces of Apulia and Basilicata in particular may be said to have a history of their own, having been by turn overrun by Greeks, Lombards, Arabs and Normans. Of the Greek time when the Greek language was spoken universally in Apulia, there remain tombs, coins and pottery. Ruvo, for example, was an ancient Greek colony, and vases in great number have been excavated there, some seventeen hundred of which are to be seen in the private museum of that place, the collection of Signor Jatta.

The period of the Roman government in Apulia is commemorated by a few bridges, stately portions of aqueducts in the midst of lonely plains, an occasional arch, stones engraved with inscriptions and mosaic pavements preserved in museums, notably that of Lucera.

When the centre of Roman power had passed to Constantinople many churches in the Byzantine style were built, almost all of which have disappeared, but the feature of the Oriental dome survives in later buildings and good examples can be seen at Giovinazzo, Molfetta and Canosa.

In the ninth century Bari, the largest city of Apulia, was for thirty years the seat of a Mohammedan government, under a Sultan, whose rule included also the province of Naples. No Saracenic religious buildings remain, for they are systematically destroyed and sometimes Christian churches were built on the foundations of Mohammedan temples, but the survival of the Arabian influence is found in the humbler forms of domestic architecture. The Christian churches which now stand in Apulia were generally founded in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, and often rebuilt. Fortunately the beautiful façades of the good period have nearly all been left undisturbed by the disastrous "restorations" of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, but most of the interiors are spoiled by recent stucco and paint.

In northern Apulia the territory of the Gargano has interesting examples of Oriental dwellings. In Peschici there are one story square buildings with the roof a perfect dome;

and in their modern structures they still cling to the dome, but much flattened. In both Peschici and Rodi there is a picturesque feature in their large pyramidal chimneys. One village in the Gargano, Sannicandro, has a unique peculiarity in its water system. At the foot of the slope on which its Oriental-looking houses stand, the ground is level, and here are scattered apparently at random, some two hundred well-heads. The wells are shallow, and are filled merely by the seepage of rainwater, which is often quite insufficient.

Further south the highway lies for miles parallel with the Adriatic, while between is a broad band of cultivation, sprinkled with rural buildings of saracenic type, resembling the bee-hive huts of the Asiatic shore. Some are pyramids, slim and steep, some are more rounded. They are smoothly finished and whitewashed. Others again take the shape of circles of stairs mounting to a peak. This latter form affords the peasant shelves on which to dry his figs. Often the two types, dome and flat roof, are combined. Some are dwellings and some, storehouses. The neighborhood of Bisceglie and Trani is a good one for seeing a variety of them.

One of the most singular developments of this rural architecture is to be seen at Alberobello, a small town a few miles inland, between Bari and Brindisi. The houses here have steep, cone-shaped roofs, built of roughly shaped stones laid one upon another to the peak, without mortar. This local manner of building dates back to the fifteenth century. The earliest form was a simple pyramid. Later the house became rectangular, the cone shape being confined to the roof. The walls of these houses are exceedingly thick, and the door is always a Roman arch. The house is plastered and whitewashed, but the stones of the roof are left to darken with time. If the house has several rooms each has its separate cupola.

The name of *trulli* has been used for the Alberobello buildings but it is not a local term and scholars disagree as to its correctness, some considering it to apply only to certain pre-historic remains of which examples are found south of Lecce.

Along much of the Apulian shore of the Adriatic it is interesting to note that the system of raising water for irrigation is purely Egyptian. The *sakieh* in Egypt is called the *bindolo* in southern Italy. A large vertical wheel upon which at regular intervals buckets are attached, is geared with a horizontal wheel. The motive power that turns the latter is in Egypt a camel or ox; and in Apulia, an ox or donkey. The vertical wheel bringing up the water automatically empties the buckets into a trough or reservoir prepared to receive it and from there it is distributed over the fields.

KATHARINE HOOKER.

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47. Bovino

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50. TRANI

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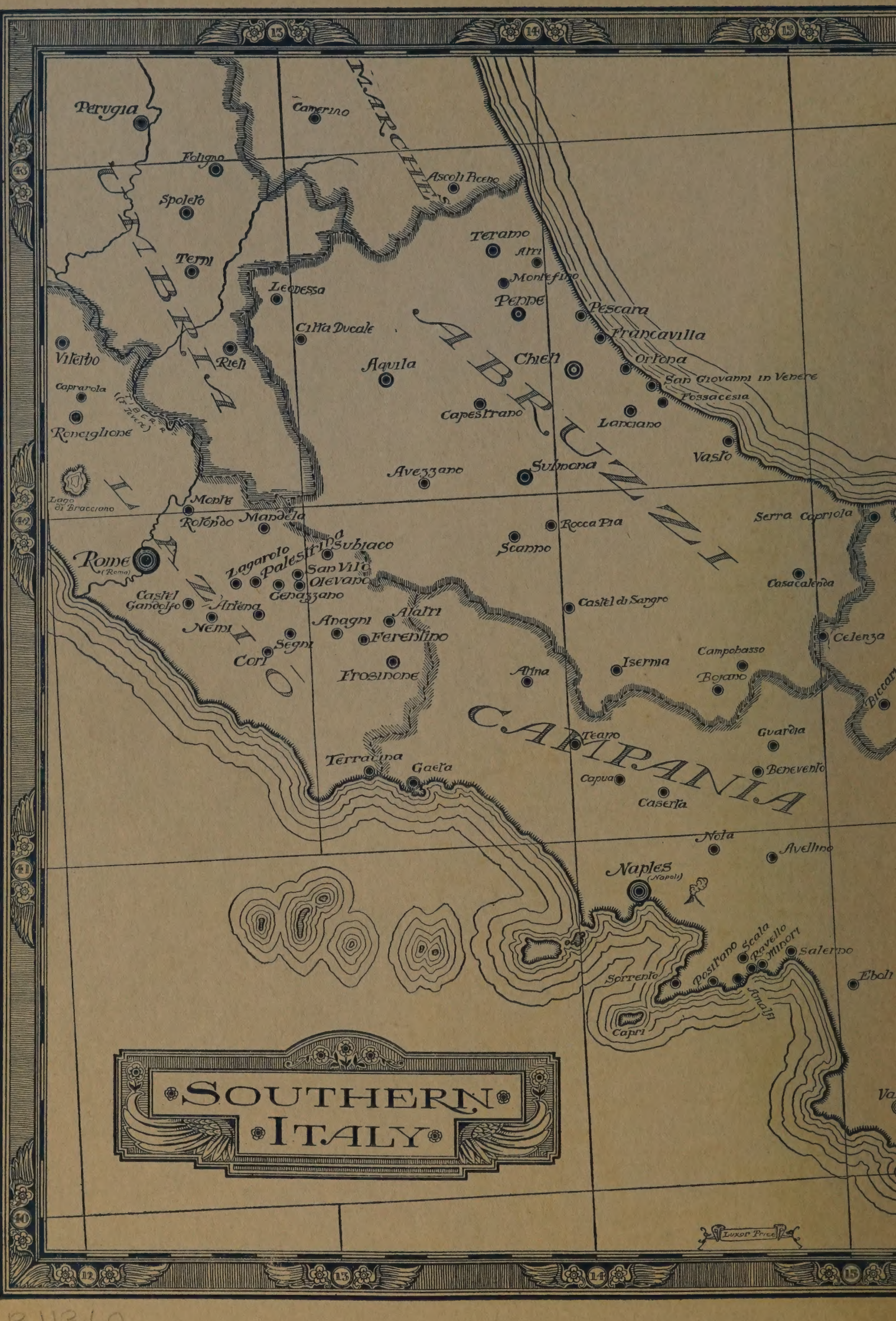
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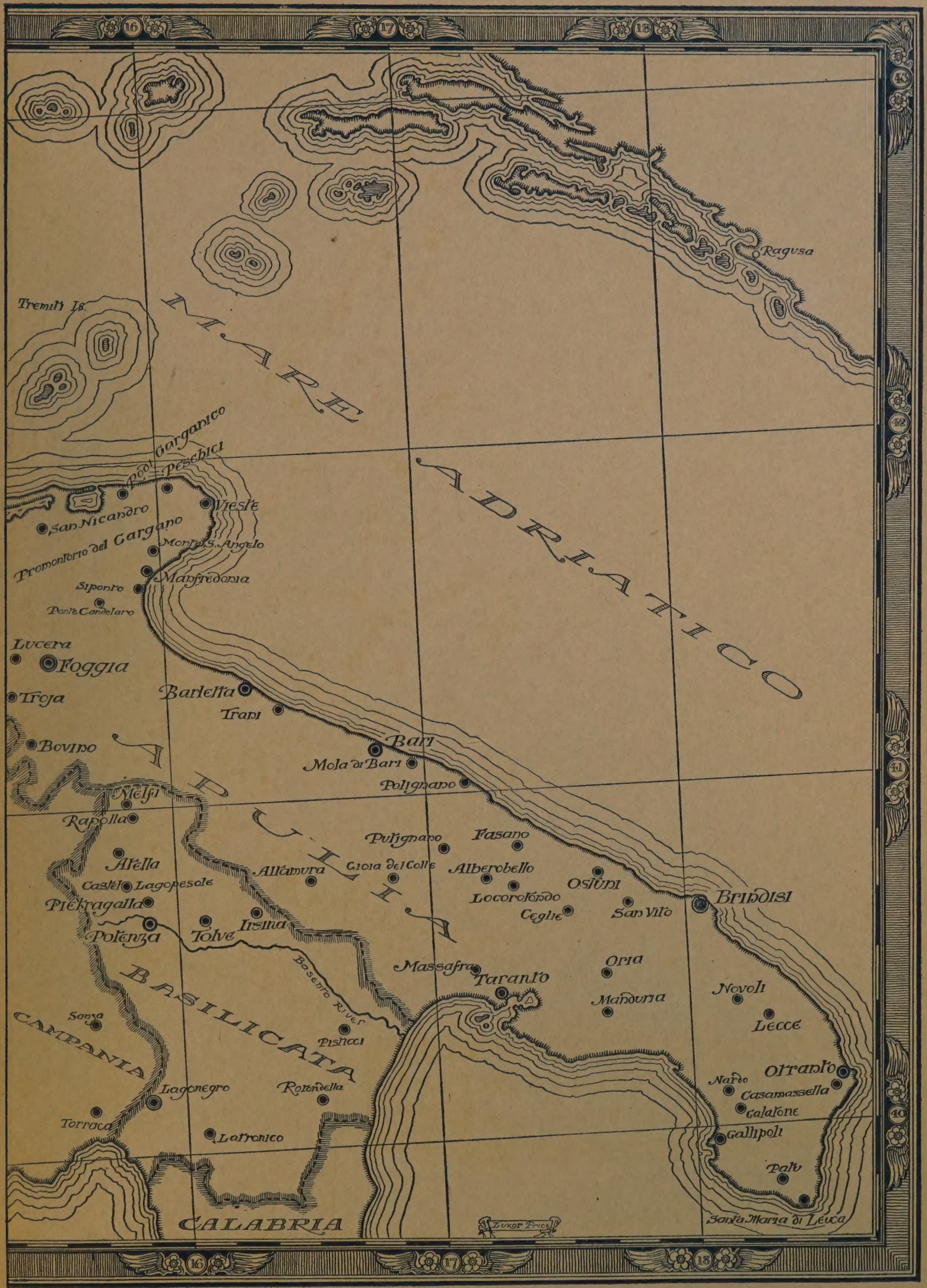
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